

Message Text

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SUBJ: FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST, MANILA-DRAFT
RESOLUTION

REF: 12006

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION REFERRED TO IN REFTEL:

MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1976

WE, THE MEMBER NATIONS OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST HERE
ASSEMBLED, REPRESENTING TWO AND A QUARTER BILLION PEOPLE OR
MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED
THAT---NOTWITHSTANDING THE CRUCIAL DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE
1974 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE---THE PACE OF INTERNATIONAL
ACTION FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DISTRESSINGLY
SLOW. WE HERE ASSEMBLED ARE ALSO GRAVELY AWARE THAT THE
CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH INACTION WILL FALL MOST SEVERELY ON THE
TEEMING MILLIONS OF ASIA WHERE HUNGER AND POVERTY ARE WIDE-
SPREAD. CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT MOUNTING HUNGER,
MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS REGION WILL HAVE DISAS-
TROUS CONSEQUENCES ON THE WHOLE WORLD, WE HEREBY ADOPT THIS
MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

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1. WE AFFIRM AND ACCEPT THAT OUR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOP-

MENT MUST BE ACHIEVED LARGELY BY OUR OWN EFFORTS IN A SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN OUR OWN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED TO ACCORD THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR A PARAMOUNT POSITION COMMENSURATE WITH ITS PRIMARY ROLE IN OUR ECONOMIES. WE ACKNOWLEDGE A DIRE NEED TO BREAK THE SHACKLES OF THE PAST BY REMOVING THE PREVAILING TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH TOGETHER COMBINE TO PREVENT OUR PEOPLE, SPECIALLY OUR SMALL FARMERS, FROM INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. WE NOTE WITH REGRET THE LOW LEVEL OF FARM PRODUCTIVITY INADEQUACIES IN OUR AGRARIAN INSTITUTIONS AND SHORTAGES OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, AND THEREFORE URGE MEMBER NATIONS TO REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS IN MEETING THESE GAPS.

2. WE AFFIRM, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT OUR ACTIONS MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY RELEVANT ACTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REMOVE THE EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS THAT WEIGH DOWN OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP OURSELVES. WE CALL, THEREFORE, ON ALL DEVELOPED NATIONS TO JOIN US IN CREATING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. WE EMPHASIZE THAT, SINCE THE MAIN HAZARD TO AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND PRODUCTION IS THE FICKLENESS OF THE WEATHER WHICH CAUSES SUDDEN FAMINE AND FOOD SHORTAGES, THERE IS A SUPREME NECESSITY TO ASSURE WORLD FOOD SECURITY UNTIL WE ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND BUILD UP ADEQUATE NATIONAL STOCKS. WE CALL THEREFORE ON ALL MEMBER NATIONS TO SUPPORT STEPS CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE FAO TO ENSURE WORLD FOOD SECURITY. WE NOTE WITH PARTICULAR ALARM THE FAILURE OF MEMBER NATIONS TO ACHIEVE THE FOOD AID TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS SET BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TWO YEARS AGO. WE ARE ALSO GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE IS AN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF RESPONSE TO THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY RESERVE OF HALF A MILLION TONS OF GRAIN. WHATEVER REASONS THERE MAY BE FOR SUCH FAILURE TO ACHIEVE THESE TARGETS, IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR PEOPLES IN ASIA WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL SUFFER MOST. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY CALL UPON THE AFFLUENT NATIONS TO MEET THESE TARGETS FOR FOOD AID AND EMERGENCY RESERVES.

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4. WE ASSERT THAT ANOTHER KEY CONSTRAINT TO THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MOST MEMBER NATIONS OF ASIA IS THE LACK OF STABILITY AND PROFITABILITY IN WORLD PRICES OF THE PRIME AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED BY OUR DEVELOPING NATIONS. WE THEREFORE CALL FOR IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION WITHIN THE U.N. SYSTEM TO STABILIZE WORLD PRICES OF SUCH COMMODITIES AT REASONABLY PROFITABLE LEVELS.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE MOST OF OUR ASIAN MEMBER NATIONS CAN EXPAND OUR OWN INTERNAL CREDIT PROGRAMS TO REACH SMALL FARMERS, THERE CONTINUES TO BE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR INCREASED AND SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AND INVESTMENT IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. WE THEREFORE CALL ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ON OPEC, AND ON ALL OUR MEMBER NATIONS TO FINALLY ESTABLISH AND OPERATE THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES BEING DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE WORLD BANK, THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS, WILL HELP ACCELERATE OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. TO THIS END, WE WELCOME ALL EFFORTS THAT WILL HELP INCREASE THE TOTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES GOING TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

6 WE ALSO CALL UPON THE FAO AND ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TO GIVE GREATER SUPPORT TO HELPING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESEARCH EFFORTS OF MEMBER NATIONS. WE ALSO ASK THAT THESE INSTITUTIONS DIRECT THEIR CAPABILITIES TOWARD RESEARCH AREAS MORE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THIS REGION.

7. WE HERE ASSEMBLED RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE NEW LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVES OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE CREATION OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM OF THE FAO. WE ALSO ENDORSE THE NEW THRUST OF THE FAO TO DECENTRALIZE TO COUNTRY-LEVEL.

WHEREFORE---

WE, THE MEMBER NATIONS OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST,
DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF OUR COMMON PROBLEMS AND UNITED IN OUR
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RESOLVE TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND POVERTY IN OUR REGION, DO
HEREBY PLEDGE OUR RENEWED EFFORTS TO HARNESS OUR VAST NATIONAL
AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND WE AGAIN CALL UPON THE DEVELOPED
NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REMOVE THE CON-
STRAINTS WHICH PREVENT US FROM THUS ACHIEVING OUR HIGHEST
POTENTIALS.

WE THEREFORE INVITE ALL NATIONS TO JOIN US IN A TRUE
PARTNERSHIP TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND POVERTY IN THE WORLD AND
TO THIS END DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY ADOPT THIS MANILA DECLARATION
ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.
SULLIVAN

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